

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR

SUBJECT: US COMMENTS ON FAO DOCUMENT CL 60/25: STATUS

AND ROLE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.

REF: FAO SYG'S LETTER G/SGC-13 ADDRESSED TO SECSTATE

1. REF LETTER REQUESTED COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENTS ON SUBJECT DOCUMENT BY SEPTEMBER 14. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO FAO AS OFFICIAL USG RESPONSE.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS:

A. DOCUMENT CL 60/25 ON WHOLE IS WELL PREPARED.

USG HAS FOLLOWING QUESTIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH ARE MADE INFORMALLY SUBJECT TO UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO DERIVE ANY STATEMENT OF POLICY FROM THIS DOCUMENT.

B. US AGREES THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO

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PERFORM MANY USEFUL FUNCTIONS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE

GOVERNMENTS AND CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THOSE GOVERNMENTS AND FAO.

C. PRESENT RELATIONSHIP IS ONE BETWEEN RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATION AND SHOULD SO REMAIN. ANY ATTEMPT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

CAN ONLY WEAKEN AND INTERFERE WITH BASIC "REPRESENTATIVE" FUNCTION OF PERMREPS. US IS OPPOSED TO ANY MOVES THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OR IMPLY EXISTENCE OF SUCH INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

3. COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC POINTS:

A. REGARDING QUOTATION IN PARA. 2 FROM 1950 SPECIAL CONFERENCE REQUEST (CONFERENCE DID NOT ADOPT RESOLUTION, AS IS STATED IN DOC.), IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT THIS QUESTION OF "EXPERT PERSONNEL" AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS BUT THAT, IN CONCLUSION AND REQUEST TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, IT WAS BROADENED TO COVER "TECHNICAL ADVISERS CAPABLE OF HANDLING COMMODITY AND OTHER PROBLEMS" IN ORDER THAT WORK OF COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE "COMMITTEES MAY CONTINUE TO BE OF HIGHEST TECHNICAL QUALITY." SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN TWO RESPECTS: (I) THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR CHANGES IN STRUCTURE AND WORK OF COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THAT OF CCP; AND (II) THE APPROACH TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAS EVOLVED MUCH MORE INTO "GENERALIST" APPROACH THAN INTO ONE RELATING TO "TECHNICAL" "EXPERTS."

B. IN PARA. 16, THIRD SENTENCE, IT IS INTIMATED IN TWO PLACES THAT DELEGATIONS FORMULATE POSITIONS AFTER ARRIVING IN ROME. WHILE THIS MAY BE SO IN SOME INSTANCES, GENERAL PRACTICE IS FOR POSITIONS TO BE FORMULATED IN CAPITALS. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THIS LAST SENTENCE OF PARA. MIGHT BETTER HAVE READ "PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES NORMALLY PROVIDE THEIR GOVERNMENTS WITH INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR USE IN FORMULATING POSITIONS. THE GENERAL PRACTICE IS FOR POSITIONS TO BE FORMULATED IN CAPITALS

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IN ADVANCE OF MEETINGS, BUT WHEN THIS IS NOT THE CASE THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MAY, THANKS TO HIS BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE, BE THE FOCAL POINT FOR WORKING OUT A CO-ORDINATED POSITION OF THE DELEGATION OF HIS COUNTRY AT A GIVEN MEETING."

C. SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH SENTENCES OF PARA. 17 APPEAR TO CONFUSE ISSUE OF DESIGNATING REPRESENTATIVES OR

ACCREDITING DELEGATIONS TO FAO MEETINGS. INsofar AS US IS CONCERNED, DETERMINATION IS MADE FOR EACH MEETING AS TO WHO SHOULD REPRESENT USG AND WHETHER OR NOT FORMAL ACCREDITATION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. THEREFORE, GENERALIZATION IN FIFTH SENTENCE IS NOT APPROPRIATE, EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE COUNTRIES SPECIFICALLY SO RECORD THEIR DESIRES WITH FAO SECRETARIAT, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESENT

WORDING IS INADEQUATE.

D. PRECEDING POINT IS CLARIFIED SOMEWHAT IN FINAL QUOTATION IN PARA. 17, BUT SINCE PHRASE "ANOTHER DELEGATE" COULD BE INTERPRETED AS SECOND DELEGATE AND, SINCE ONLY ONE IS PERMITTED, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARER IF IT HAD READ "ANOTHER PERSON AS DELEGATE."

E. IN PARA. 20, THIRD LINE, "BILATERAL" SHOULD HAVE READ "SUCH" SINCE IN INTERNATIONAL USAGE, BILATERAL NORMALLY REFERS TO RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

F. IN PARA. 23, LAST TWO SENTENCES, THESE PROPOSALS TO AVOID DELAYS WOULD NOT BE APPLICABLE TO USG. PRESENT SYSTEM OF DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH FAO LIAISON OFFICE FOR NORTH AMERICA IS WORKING VERY SATISFACTORILY AND SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

G. REGARDING LAST SENTENCE OF PARA. 24, WE FIND NO PROVISION IN BASIC TEXTS FOR SUCH FUNCTION FOR INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL. FURTHER, THIS IMPLIES THAT, AS GROUP, PERMREPS ARE TO BE REGARDED AS SOME KIND OF ADJUNCT TO COUNCIL, WHICH IS CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE. THEREFORE, USG CANNOT CONCUR IN THE THOUGHT EXPRESSED IN THIS SENTENCE.
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H. PHRASE "EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A SMALL GROUP" IN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH LINES OF PARA. 26 IMPLIES THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TAKE ON CERTAIN FUNCTIONS IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, RATHER THAN AS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO CARRY OUT THESE FUNCTIONS. THIS IS NOT APPROPRIATE AND ANY SUCH ATTEMPT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE PERMREPS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO USG, AS NOTED UNDER GENERAL COMMENTS.

I. SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA. 27 IS OPEN TO TWO CRITICISMS. FIRST, THERE IS IMPLICATION THAT PERMREPS COORDINATE POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENTS AND DELEGATIONS. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTABLE ONLY IF SOME SUCH WORDING

AS FOLLOWING HAD BEEN USED: "THIS SERVES, INTER ALIA, TO
INFORM REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS OF DIFFERING POINTS
OF VIEW AND MAY LEAD TO ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS WHICH PER-
MIT MORE RAPID AND COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUES IN
FORTHCOMING SESSIONS OF GOVERNING BODIES." SECOND,
REFERENCE TO COUNCIL IS NOT APPROPRIATE BECAUSE IT IM-
PLIES AGAIN THAT PERMREPS ARE SOMEHOW INSTITUTIONALIZED

ARM OF COUNCIL, WHICH THEY ARE NOT. PHRASE "--IN
PARTICULAR THE COUNCIL--" SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.
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